

January 2025

2025 New Judges Seminar

The annual New Judges Seminar was held virtually and in-person over seven days in early January 2025. During the seminar, over 100 newly elected and appointed judges attended sessions designed to help them make the transition from practicing attorney to judge. The New Judges Seminars emphasize the teaching of skills unique to judging and include substantive and procedural law sessions geared to each court type.

The IFRAC System: Writing Trial Court Opinions Efficiently for Publication (Supreme Kings)

Thomas J.K. Smith, the State Reporter of New York, introduced and illustrated the IFRAC system for writing trial court opinions efficiently and concisely and explained how the New York State Law Reporting Bureau edits and publishes opinions.

2025 UCS Attorney Series: Judicial Opinion Writing, Part 1

The Judicial Opinion Writing program is designed to enhance participants' skills in crafting judicial opinions. The first part of this three-part program addresses: the importance of legal writing, the effect of COVID and AI on opinion writing, plain English, judicial writing style, the structure of judicial opinions, writing fair opinions, and the duties of court attorneys and law clerks.

Jl Learning on Location Program: Fortnite, Fentanyl and Frappuccino: The Science of Addiction (Supreme Nassau)

Renowned neuroscientist, Dr. Stephen Dewey offers a captivating and comprehensive analysis of the process of addiction. Highlighting PET scan studies, Dr. Dewey shares science-based, objective evidence of how addiction impacts brain function, structure, and development from adolescence to adulthood. His research, focusing on the disease model of addiction, illustrates how drugs, other substances, and cause chemical and physiological changes in the brain, making it extremely difficult for addicts to stop using them without help. This presentation provides judges, attorneys, and court leaders with invaluable insights about the impact of addiction on family dynamics and how this knowledge can be utilized to make informed decisions regarding addiction-involved individuals who appear in the many types of cases pending in our courts.

February 2025

"Lemmon to Liberation": The Untold Power of Black Labor in Shaping America

On February 6, 2025, a distinguished panel, including the Hon. Rowan D. Wilson, Chief Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals; the Hon. Albert M. Rosenblatt, retired Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals; Rev. Dr. Stephen W. Pogue, Senior Pastor, Greater AME Zion Church (Mount Vernon, NY); Rev. Dr. Malcolm J. Byrd, Senior Pastor, Mother AME Zion Church of Harlem; and Mirna Martinez Santiago, Esq. (Moderator), analyzed the Lemmon Slave Case, discussing its historical and legal significance and the role of Black churches in the abolition movement.